

Longuemare Endorses Two Important Modeling and Simulation Documents

RANDY ZITTEL

In 1993, the Army established a policy requiring that all major program managers (PM) plan their use of modeling and simulation (M&S) throughout their programs. Because early planning in a program or project is crucial, and M&S is expensive, the Army weighed carefully its decision to require that all PMs document their planning efforts in a specific Simulation Support Plan (SSP). The positive potential of M&S for accelerating schedules, reducing cost, and improving quality was a key acquisition reform initiative that Army senior acquisition managers wanted to exploit. Because of the SSP's effectiveness, in 1996 the Army expanded its SSP requirement to include ACAT III and IV Army program and product managers. The intent was to provide program and product managers a management tool that would result in increased M&S focus and coordination.

The Army recently published an excellent pamphlet to assist PMs in better understanding the importance and value of the SSP. The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research, Development, and Acquisition just released *Simulation Support Plan Guidelines*, May 1997, to all acquisition managers.

In a memorandum to all other Service Acquisition Executives, May 2, 1997, R. Noel Longuemare, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, provided copies of the SSP Guidelines, and recommended their use in all Department of Defense (DoD) programs.

The *Simulation and Support Plan Guidelines* will soon be available on the Assistant Secretary of the Army for

Research, Development, and Acquisition (ASARDA) Home Page:

<http://www.sarda.army.mil>

To obtain a copy of the *Guidelines*, send an E-mail to: purdye@sarda.army.mil or call (703) 614-5920.

Another important document relating to current use of DoD M&S came out of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD). Its "Study on the Effectiveness of Modeling and Simulation in the Weapon System Acquisition Process" is an excellent overview of current DoD use of M&S and its potential for the future. The all-encompassing concept of SBA is introduced

here, and the study provides a tremendous wealth of M&S use in current programs. Longuemare distributed the study report to all major DoD PMs in his memorandum of March 28, 1997, as an indication of M&S value, and challenged each PM to use M&S to the maximum extent possible, "to continuously reduce life cycle costs." This capstone study is available through the Defense Modeling and Simulation Home Page (<http://www.dmsomil>) on the World Wide Web.

Editor's Note: Zittel is a Professor of Systems Engineering, Faculty Division, DSMC.

